

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 204835
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 INR-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 SS-15 PM-05
PA-02 MCT-01 L-03 DHA-05 VO-03 /098 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. NEUMANN
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
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O 262124Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
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PAGE 02 STATE 204835

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USCINCEUR
DOD
NSC
CIA
USIA

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 26

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 26,
1977: (FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.)

SPOKESMAN: I'D LIKE TO REANNOUNCE CERTAIN PARTS OF
THE SECRETARY'S COMING TRIP TO EUROPE AND PUT IN ON THE
RECORD WITH SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS.
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PAGE 03 STATE 204835

SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE WILL TRAVEL TO EUROPE
SEPTEMBER 5 TO 10. HE WILL MEET AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR BRUNO
KREISKY ON SEPTEMBER 6TH AND WITH SOVIET FOREIGN
MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO FOR DISCUSSIONS ON SALT SEPTEMBER 7 TO 9.

HE WILL TRAVEL TO ROME ON SEPTEMBER 9 FOR MEETINGS WITH
PRIME MINISTER GIULIO ANDREOTTI, FOREIGN MINISTER ARLANDO
FORLANI, AND OTHER ITALIAN OFFICIALS; AND THE SECRETARY
WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 10.

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS ON THAT PARTICULAR --

Q. YES. YOU SPECIFICALLY SAY HE'S GOING TO MEET WITH
GROMYKO FOR DISCUSSIONS ON SALT. WOULDN'T IT ALSO BE
FAIR TO CONCLUDE THAT THEY'RE GOING TO DISCUSS THE MIDDLE
EAST?

A. I WOULD NOT RULE THAT OUT, TED, BUT THE STATED PURPOSE
OF THEIR MEETING IN VIENNA IS SALT.

Q. WELL, I MEAN THE ONLY REASON I EVEN RAISE THE
QUESTION IS THAT SO MUCH WAS MADE A FEW MONTHS AGO ABOUT
THESE REGULAR AND HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS THAT WERE TO
TAKE PLACE AND THIS WOULD SEEM LIKE AN APPROPRIATE VENUE.

A. YOUR POINT IS NOTED.

Q. WOULD PEOPLE LIKE ROY ATHERTON BE GOING ALONG? DO YOU KNOW WHETHER ANY OF THE MIDDLE EAST FOLKS WILL ACCOMPANY HIM?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T HAVE A LIST OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY, SO I DON'T KNOW WHETHER ROY WOULD BE ACCOMPANYING HIM OR NOT.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 204835

LET ME GO ON TO ANSWER A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS I TOOK YESTERDAY ON THE SUBJECT OF THE NEW VISA LAW AND THE PLO.

ONE OF THE QUESTIONS WAS WHETHER A PLO OFFICE IS TO BE OPENED IN WASHINGTON. THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT THE PLO IS PLANNING TO OPEN AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. IT WAS REGISTERED WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT LAST YEAR, AS I THINK MOST OF YOU KNOW.

THE SECOND QUESTION IS, OR WAS, HAVE ANY PLO OFFICIALS MADE AN ATTEMPT TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES. THE ANSWER: THERE WAS ONE REQUEST PENDING AT THE TIME THE PRESIDENT SIGNED INTO LAW THE STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL AUGUST 17. THAT BILL INCLUDES AN AMENDMENT WHICH MANDATES CHANGES IN THE WAY WE DEAL WITH VISA CASES OF PERSONS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS SOLELY BECAUSE OF THEIR AFFILIATION WITH THE PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATION. AND I HAVE IT, IF YOU WANT THE EXACT LANGUAGE OF THAT AMENDMENT.

NOW, A DECISION HAS NOT BEEN REACHED ON WHETHER TO RECOMMEND A WAIVER TO ALLOW THE TRAVEL OF THIS PERSON TO THE UNITED STATES; AND I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER DETAILS ON THAT VISA REQUEST FOR YOU AT THIS POINT.

Q. CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE INDIVIDUAL?

A. I CAN'T. I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS, AS A MATTER OF FACT.

Q. YOUR ANSWER TO THE FIRST QUESTION SEEMS TO BE DELIBERATELY AMBIGUOUS, SO I HESITATE TO ASK THE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 204835

QUESTION. BUT IF THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER THE PLO OFFICE IS TO BE OPENED, MAY I REFINES THAT QUESTION THEN A LITTLE TO ASK WHAT THE U.S. REACTION WOULD BE IF IN FACT THERE WERE A REQUEST TO THAT EFFECT, A CURRENT REQUEST?

A. LET ME ANSWER YOU LIKE THIS: A FOREIGN ORGANIZATION CAN REGISTER WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ITS INTENTION TO OPEN AN OFFICE -- AN INFORMATION OFFICE -- AND IT CAN OPERATE AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON AS LONG AS IT OBSERVES LAWS, OUR LAWS, AND MAKES THE REQUIRED OR PERIODIC REPORTS OF ITS ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL DISBURSEMENTS.

I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A PARTICULAR REACTION TO THEIR ANNOUNCED INTENTION EXCEPT TO SAY OUR ATTITUDE ON THAT REMAINS THE SAME AS IT WAS BEFORE.

Q. WELL, AS I RECALL -- AND MAYBE YOU CAN CORRECT ME -- THEY DID IN FACT TRY TO OPEN AN OFFICE BEFORE AND WERE DISCOURAGED FROM DOING SO. SO WHEN YOU SAY THAT THE ATTITUDE IS THE SAME, WOULD THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT STILL DISCOURAGE THEM?

A. WELL, FIRST OF ALL, I'M NOT SURE THAT YOU'RE CORRECT -- "WE DISCOURAGED"; I'M NOT AWARE THAT WE DISCOURAGED. AS I SAY, THEY REGISTERED THEIR INTENTION TO OPEN ONE -- LAST FALL, I THINK IT WAS. I DON'T KNOW THAT WE DISCOURAGED THEM FROM OPENING IT. THERE WAS A PROBLEM WITH THE VISA OF ONE OF THE GENTLEMEN I THINK WHO WAS INVOLVED, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN; BUT I DON'T ACCEPT YOUR PREMISE THAT WE DISCOURAGED.

IN ANY CASE, THE SECOND PART OF YOUR QUESTION: AS I SAY, OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE OPENING OF AN OFFICE IS THE SAME AS IT WAS BEFORE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 204835

Q. AND THAT -- I'M SORRY. REFRESH MY MEMORY ON THAT. WHICH IS WHAT?

A. WHICH IS THAT WE DID NOT THINK IT WAS A PROPITIOUS TIME FOR AN OFFICE TO BE OPENED.

Q. COULD YOU VETO THE OPENING OF AN OFFICE?

A. WELL, AGAIN, LARS, IT'S A LEGAL POINT THAT I CAN'T ANSWER YOU ON WITHOUT CHECKING. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE RULES SAY.

Q. IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, YOU ALSO SAID A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT MUST REGISTER ITS INTENTION TO OPEN AN OFFICE. THAT ALSO APPLIES TO ORGANIZATIONS?

A. YES. I THINK THERE WAS AN ANSWER POSTED YESTERDAY OR THIS MORNING THAT SPOKE TO THE QUESTION THAT WE HAD HERE YESTERDAY -- GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION OR ENTITY, OR WHATEVER.

Q. WHAT WAS THE DATE, PLEASE, WHEN THE PRESIDENT SIGNED THAT?

A. AUGUST 17.

Q. WELL, THE TIBETANS HAVE AN OFFICE IN NEW YORK. AND WHEN THE PRC COMPLAINED ABOUT IT, ACCUSING US OF HAVING A THREE-CHINA POLICY, WE SAID: "WELL, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT. THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST IT AND THEY'RE OPERATING WITHIN THE LAW."

A. WELL, THAT MAY BE JUST THE CASE, GEORGE. I'D GO UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 204835

BACK TO WHAT I SAID BEFORE: IF THEY ARE PROPERLY REGISTERED, PROPERLY OPERATING AND PROPERLY IN THE COUNTRY, THERE MAY BE NO WAY THAT WE CAN PREVENT AN OFFICE FROM OPENING.

Q. EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T THINK -- YOUR THINKING THAT IT'S NOT PROPITIOUS MAY BE IRRELEVANT.

A. WELL, I'LL STAY WITH OUR FEELING ABOUT IT; AND I'LL ANSWER YOU ON THE LEGAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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